



Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
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**Gov. Beshear announces funding to
improve safety and environment in Owensboro area**

Projects to enhance quality of life for citizens of Daviess and Hancock counties

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Gov. Steve Beshear today announced an investment of \$340,000 in transportation-related projects in greater Owensboro. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds will be used to address safety and air quality issues in the area.

“These investments underscore my administration’s emphasis on investing in local communities,” said Gov. Beshear. “With these projects we are focusing on the health and safety of everyone who lives, works or does business in Owensboro.”

The projects include:

Old Hartford Road bike and pedestrian facilities program

This project is designed to improve Owensboro’s air quality by replacing vehicular trips with bicycle trips on one of the city’s main thoroughfares. The \$231,383 project includes 1.2 miles of 6-foot paved shoulder and striping on both sides of the road. Coupled with previous projects, the plan provides bike routes that connect neighborhoods to schools, parks, businesses, workplaces and the Greenbelt Park. The project is expected to decrease vehicular use on this major thoroughfare by 5 percent within a year.

GRITS transportation vehicle replacement

This \$61,776 project will provide funds to replace three 1999 Ford Escorts in the Audubon Area Community Services fleet with three 2007 Ford Escape hybrids. The vehicles are used to provide public transportation services in Daviess and Hancock counties. It is estimated that approximately three tons of greenhouse gas emissions will be avoided by using the hybrid vehicles. The project will also result in the improvement of the reliability, safety and passenger capacity of the fleet.

Diesel retrofit for highway construction equipment

This \$48,000 project will result in the retrofitting of a dozen pieces of heavy duty Transportation Cabinet highway equipment used in the Owensboro area. The retrofit will improve air quality in the area by reducing the emissions of particulate matter.

“The projects we are announcing for the Owensboro area today demonstrate that the Transportation Cabinet is involved with a lot more than just laying blacktop,” said Transportation Secretary Joe Prather. “We are actively involved in Governor Beshear’s commitment to the health and well-being of all Kentuckians.”

The federal CMAQ program funds transportation projects or programs that are designed to reduce congestion and improve air quality. Kentucky receives CMAQ annually, to be spent in areas designated as being in “non-attainment” or “maintenance” of National Ambient Air Quality Standards. More information is available at <http://www.tea21.ky.gov>.